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ORD-6220-72

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Transfer of the Signal Analysis and Waveform Branch from ORD to OEL

1. During the discussions attending the transfer of the SAW Branch from ORD to OEL, it became apparent that there is some misunderstanding of the purpose and extent of the transfer which is standing in the way of a timely completion of this action. This memorandum presents my views on the matter.

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2. In reviewing ORD activities, I concluded that [redacted] group was, for the most part, not truly engaged in R&D activities; much of the effort consisted of the processing of routine material. In my view, the establishment of a clear role for ORD demands concentration on R&D at the exploratory level. On the other hand, the SAW activity, and especially that in the area of hydroacoustics, is vital to the Agency (particularly because of the growth of the naval intelligence area). Since OEL has been given the responsibility for hydroacoustic collection and already possesses an ELINT processing function, it is the logical place to carry out these SAW activities. With this in mind, ORD proposed the transfer to OEL of four\* members of [redacted]'s group. This has been agreed to at all levels and is now an accomplished fact. In addition to the transfer of people, FY 72 SAW contracts with an approximate unexpended value of [redacted]

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have been or are in the process of being assigned to OEL. In addition, ORD is prepared to transfer some other monies to cover the Signal Analysis Lab Support, equipment, supplies and the remaining portion of the FY 73 salaries and travel budget for the transferred personnel. It does not appear that the transfer of these assets constitutes a major issue.

\*Also transferred are the ORD Coop personnel amounting to one additional man year.

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3. The question at issue is - Should the continuing SAW costs come from the ORD FY 74 and future budgets? In my view, this would not be proper. It violates the new philosophy under which the yearly budget for ORD is established. We are charged with performing exploratory R&D in all areas of interest to the Agency and on this basis are provided with an appropriate percentage of the Agency's R&D budget. This budget level is not determined by adding up specific project costs and therefore should not be reduced by the transfer of a project or projects to another office. Indeed, the transfer of activities which have gone beyond the R&D stage should be a major goal in future ORD planning. Furthermore, in effecting this particular transfer to OEL, ORD is not giving up all work in these substantive areas but rather intends to do R&D in close support of the newly enhanced OEL ASW function and in the signal analysis area where it can be responsive to well established Agency needs.

4. It has been further argued that, with the reduction of people resulting from the transfer of four people to OEL, ORD's budget should be reduced. In arriving at the FY 74 budget, however, a T/O of [REDACTED] was considered--10 less than in FY 73. The transfer of [REDACTED] group will only partly accomplish this cut. If ORD cannot meet the cut in its T/O level by transferring people, without second order reductions across the line, there would be no course left but for ORD to actually RIF the people originally tagged for transfer to OCS.

5. The proposal by ORD to transfer these people to OEL constituted an honest effort to make better use of some important assets in meeting high priority Agency needs than ORD's role and its manpower ceiling would allow. However naive such an approach may be, it should not damage the Agency's exploratory R&D activities in perpetuity.

Sayre Stevens

Director of Research and Development

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